

repay this debt, I will do everything in my power to honor SGT Johnson's life and ensure that his legacy lives on forever.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Sergeant La David T. Johnson on the occasion of his induction as an honorary Green Beret.

RECOGNIZING CMSGT BRIAN MARQUARDT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AFTER 33 YEARS OF HONORABLE SERVICE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Brian Marquardt of Harrison Township on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after 33 years of honorable service.

After growing up in Saint Clair Shores, CMSgt Marquardt entered the Air Force in July 1988. After completing basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, he was assigned to the 88th Medical Group at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio for on-the-job training as an Aerospace Medical Technician. His subsequent career includes various aspects of the medical technician field and included Aeromedical Evacuation, Aeromedical Staging and Transportation, and most recently, a ground medical unit with a physical exam package and a shared Air Force Theater Hospital.

His last position was as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 910th Medical Squadron at Youngstown Air Reserve Station in Ohio. In this role he advised the commander on matters concerning the health, morale, welfare, and the effective utilization of the Reserve members within the squadron. He also served as the commander's representative to numerous committees, councils, boards, and military and civilian functions. Prior to assuming this most recent position, he served as the Functional Manager for the Aerospace Medical Technician career field at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, as well as Youngstown Air Reserve Station.

CMSgt Marquardt has received numerous awards and decorations including Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Unit Award with 2 oak leaf cluster, AF Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and 2 oak leaf clusters, Iraqi Campaign Medal with one service star and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

CMSgt Marquardt has given over three decades of his life in service to our country. I commend him for this selfless display of love and patriotism. He has certainly made his home state of Michigan proud, and I know the example of service he has set will be followed for years to come. I wish CMSgt Marquardt the best as he takes on life's next great adventure. We are so thankful for his service.

TRIBUTE TO DENA BARON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dena Baron, a long-time member of the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee, who is retiring after more than 25 years of service in the Federal Government.

Dena began her career at the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995. While a budget analyst at the Environmental Protection Agency, she was detailed to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development.

Following her detail, in 1999, Dena became professional staff for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development. In 2004, she moved to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury until the House Appropriations Committee reorganized in the 109th Congress. Following the reorganization, Dena became Clerk for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, and the District of Columbia.

When the House of Representatives switched control in 2007, and the House Appropriations Committee underwent another reorganization setting the subcommittees to their current form, Dena became Minority Clerk for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee. Continuing her trend of versatility, Dena simultaneously worked on the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Financial Services and General Government subcommittees.

When the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in the 112th Congress, Dena became Clerk for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and then in 2017, she became Clerk for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.

When the House of Representatives switched control in 2019, as only fitting, Dena ventured into uncharted territory and became Minority Clerk for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security. This opportunity presented a range of new challenges, and she, once again, demonstrated her ability to handle any task put before her and performed remarkably.

Dena was an exceptional member of the Appropriations Committee staff for more than twenty years, and she served on my staff for three of those years. I asked Dena to work on some of the most divisive issues of the day, and she saw us through one of the longest government shutdowns in history two years ago by finding common ground with her colleagues.

Dena has spent many hours away from her loved ones over the course of her long Federal career, and I know she is looking forward to spending more time with her husband, Jim Smith, her son, Andrew, and her daughter, Emily. Dena will be greatly missed, and I wish her the best in her next chapter and thank her for her dedicated service to the United States.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL BRIAN J. MENNES FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE DURING HIS TENURE AT FORT DRUM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Brian J. Mennes for his service to the United States of America over the course of his 33-year career with the U.S. Army and his two years in command of Fort Drum in Northern New York, which I proudly represent.

Major General Mennes graduated from the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York in 1988 and immediately commissioned into the U.S. Army as an Infantry officer. Since then, MG Mennes has deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and five times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition to leading the famed 10th Mountain Division, MG Mennes has also served in the storied 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. A highly decorated officer, MG Mennes is known for his exceptional leadership skills, commitment to his soldiers and families, and ability to cultivate a supportive community. MG Mennes easily fit into the culture of the North Country and leaves Fort Drum after changing it for the better.

During his tenure at Fort Drum, Major General Mennes was influential in ensuring his soldiers were combat-ready while building a strong support system within the community. He led the 10th Mountain Division through an Afghanistan deployment and drawdown as the U.S. prepares to bring our troops home after nearly twenty years in the country. In addition, MG Mennes has faced unprecedented challenges in commanding Fort Drum through the Coronavirus pandemic where he was responsible for the lives, health, and safety of thousands of soldiers, families, and civilians.

On behalf of New York's 21st district and the entire Fort Drum community, I would like to thank Major General Mennes for his exceptional leadership and continued investment in his community. I congratulate him on his achievements thus far and wish him the best of luck during his next assignment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

HONORING COLONEL ANDREW J. SHORT

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Colonel Andrew J. "Coby" Short, who is relinquishing his command of the Pittsburgh District of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he has served since 2018. Colonel Short came to the Pittsburgh District of the Army Corps, following an assignment at the U.S. Army War College. Colonel Short is a native of Bedford, Indiana. Following his graduation from the U.S. Army Military Academy with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Systems Engineering, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1997.

He also holds a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology, a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia, a Master of Business Administration from Indiana University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. He is also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, Combined Arms Service Staff School, Engineer Captain's Career Course, and the Engineer Officer Basic Course.

His first duty station was Fort Campbell, KY where he served as a Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer and Assistant Operations Officer in 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. While there, he deployed to Kosovo with 1-187 Infantry Battalion. Colonel Short was then assigned to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY as the Assistant Operations Officer for 41st Engineer Battalion and then commanded Alpha Company, 41st Engineer Battalion; later Alpha Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion. During his time in command, he deployed to Afghanistan with 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. After command, Colonel Short served as the Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, 10th Mountain Division. He next served as a Project Engineer at Langley Air Force Base, VA with the Norfolk District, United States Army Corps of Engineers. He was subsequently assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg where he deployed to Afghanistan as part of CJTF-82 and served as the Deputy Division Engineer. He then served consecutively as Operations Officer of 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion in 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, Operations Officer of the 20th Engineer Brigade, and Executive Officer of the 20th Engineer Brigade. Colonel Short then served as the Executive Officer to the Deputy Commanding General of FORSCOM. Most recently, he commanded the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood for 31 months where he deployed to both Eastern Europe as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve and to the Republic of Korea.

Colonel Short has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and other awards and decorations. He has earned the Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and been awarded the Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal.

I would like to thank Colonel Short for his dedication to public service. Not only was he a great help to me and my staff, but he was also committed to helping the constituents in my district. I applaud him for his distinguished career of service as a dedicated member of the Army Corps of Engineers and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY SOFTBALL'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Virginia Wesleyan University

Softball Marlins upon winning the 2021 NCAA Division III Championship. This was no easy task, and it took extraordinary skill, character, and determination to complete this difficult achievement.

This national championship victory is the Marlin's third title in the last four complete seasons, having also won in 2017 and 2018. After having their 2020 season cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia Wesleyan returned to the field in 2021 in dominant fashion, winning 46 games while only losing six times and tying once. After seeing the championship series against Texas Lutheran University tied after two games, the Marlins displayed their might, winning the final game with a score of nine runs to one.

It is truly an honor to have such outstanding champions represent our community. I congratulate all the members of the Virginia Wesleyan Softball Marlins on this tremendous accomplishment, and I wish the program the best of luck in the seasons to come.

RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN LYNKEY'S SERVICE TO CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of one Mr. John Lynskey for his service in: educating, coaching and mentoring the young men at Christopher Columbus High School for the last 37 years.

Mr. John Lynskey has dedicated the last 37 years of his life to educating and teaching the students of Christopher Columbus High School what it takes to become a responsible man. What began as a teaching/coaching career in 1984, evolved into a prestigious reputation as one of the schools finest and most respected mentors to thousands of Explorers who have walked the halls of Christopher Columbus. Mr. Lynskey is one of the few Explorers inducted into both the School's main hall of fame and Athletic Hall of Fame; he joins the ranks with several professional athletes including: former NFL Quarterback Brian Griese, MLB outfielder Jon Jay, and Olympic athlete Eddie Alvarez (just to name a few).

Although the entire Christopher Columbus community alumni and students will miss Mr. Lynskey, he is leaving behind an unshakeable legacy. From teaching Social Studies for over thirty years and more recently as the Dean of Students, to having his own Podcast (Looking Back with Lynskey) John Lynskey will be remembered as more than just an educator and administrator but as truly a Renaissance man in the realm of education in the South Florida Community.

John Lynskey will be moving to Macon, GA to be the director of the legendary Allman Brothers Band Museum but will remain active in the Development Department for the school in the years to come.

Moving forward (Adelante).

CELEBRATING LOLITA GUERRERO'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Lolita Guerrero's 80th Birthday.

Lolita is a beloved friend and member of our community, my district, and my staff. She is a longtime Houston community leader, trail-blazer in Latino women rights, and activist. I am proud to have Lolita on my staff because not only is she a leader in the Latino movement, but she truly knows our community, our issues, what moves us, and how to help.

Her service and dedication to our community is incomparable. She is always there to lend a helping hand to my community's Latinos and seniors. She truly cares. She is an inspiring role model for many young Latinas. Ms. Guerrero has advanced the Latino community through her work with LULAC, where she was elected the first woman to serve as the Texas state director.

I am grateful for the years I have shared with Lolita, always working, and committed to our community. I wish her many more years of happiness and achievements.

Thank you for your commitment and service, Lolita. (Gracias por tu entrega y servicio, Lolita.) We are very fortunate to have you in our lives. (Que afortunados somos de tenerte en nuestras vidas.) Happy birthday. ¡Feliz cumpleaños!

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JEREMIAH JOHNSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INDUCTION AS AN HONORARY GREEN BERET

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant First Class Jeremiah Johnson on the occasion of his induction as an honorary member of the United States Army Special Forces, or "Green Berets."

SFC Johnson was an American hero who laid down his life in the line of duty and saved the lives of his teammates on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in southwest Niger. Assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, he personified the values of honor, integrity, personal courage, and selfless service.

SFC Johnson enlisted in the United States Army in October 2007 and served as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Specialist after undergoing some of the most specialized training in our military. SFC Johnson served our nation with distinction and valor, and his decorations include the Purple Heart, Silver Star and Meritorious Service Medal.

A role model among his peers in the 3rd Special Forces Group, SFC Johnson represents the best our nation has to offer. His work helped secure and protect our homeland for generations to come and today we honor his sacrifice. While our country can never